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Following is a complete set of claims as amended with this response, which cancels claims 15, 38-44, and 49-58, includes amendments to claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 13, 14, 17, 22, 24, 27, 28, 36, 37, 45, and adds new claims 59-66.

- 5 1. (Three Times Amended) A method for accessing functionality of a consumer device comprising:
accessing a second state of a controller, the second state being established using bio-metric input of a second user;
receiving bio-metric input of a first user into a bio-metric user-identification input component of the controller;
establishing a system state of the controller, the system state being a previous used state by the first user or a state similar to the previous used state; and
10 providing access to functionality of the system state of a consumer device using the controller by the first user.

- 15 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the bio-metric user-identification input component is a fingerprint pad.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the controller is a hand-held controller.

- 20 4. (Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein the controller comprises a display area, and further comprising displaying on the display area data representing available functions to be executed.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the bio-metric user-identification input component is a microphone.

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6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the bio-metric input is voice data, and wherein the voice data is received after the controller is prepared for input in response to a request to process the voice data.

5 7. The method of Claim 5, wherein the controller is a hand-held controller.

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8. (Amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein the controller comprises a display area, and further comprising displaying on the display area data representing available functions to be executed.

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9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the consumer device is a television.

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11. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the controller comprises a display area, and further comprising displaying on the display area data representing the system state.

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12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the controller comprises a plurality of physical actuating buttons.

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13. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the previous used state of the first user comprises one of a screen last viewed, time of day or night the first user logged-on or logged-off, a content data displayed, a selection made, and a navigation history used.

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14. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the system state is established by incorporating algorithms in the controller upon re-logging-in of the first user.

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17. (Three Times Amended) A controller comprising:
a bio-metric input component; and
a graphical display;
wherein the controller, upon log-on by a first user, is programmed to enter a
5 previous used state by the first user or a state similar to the previous used state by
the first user,
wherein said log-on occurs in response to the first user inputting bio-metric
input into the bio-metric input component.

10 18. The controller of Claim 17, wherein the bio-metric input component is a
fingerprint pad, and the bio-metric input comprises a fingerprint pattern.

19. The controller of Claim 17, wherein the bio-metric input component is a
microphone, and the bio-metric input comprises voice data.

15 20. The controller of Claim 17 wherein the controller is a hand-held
controller.

20 21. The controller of Claim 17, further comprising a plurality of physical
actuating buttons.

22. (Twice Amended) The controller of Claim 17, wherein the system state
represents an initial system state if the first user is a first time user.

25 23. The controller of Claim 17, wherein the controller is programmed to
display a representation of the system state on the display.

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28 24. (Twice Amended) The controller of Claim 17, wherein the system state represents a default state if the first user is a guest user, the default state offering limited access to functionality of the consumer device.

5 27. (Twice Amended) A method of accessing functionality of a consumer device comprising:

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determining an identity of a first user in response to bio-metric input supplied by the first user to a controller;

29 10 providing access to a first set of functionality of a consumer device by use of the controller, said access being dependent upon the identity of the first user; and

switching to a second system state from the first system state at a time calculated by an algorithm which incorporates at least one factor other than the passage of a certain amount of time.

15 28. (Amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein the second system state is a default state preventing use of the controller for accessing pay-per-view programming.

20 33. The method of Claim 27, wherein the at least one factor is the identity of the first user.

34. The method of Claim 27, wherein the at least one factor is a category of use associated with the consumer device.

25 35. The method of Claim 27, wherein the at least one factor is a subject matter of activity within a category of use associated with the consumer device.

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36. (Amended) The method of Claim 27 wherein the second system state is established in response to the bio-metric input supplied by a second user to the controller, the second system associated with a second set of functionality.

5 37. (Amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein the second system state is a power down state.

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10 45. (Amended) A method of controlling multi-user access to functionality of a consumer device comprising:

defining a group user, said group user including a first user and a second user;

establishing a group user state in response to a first bio-metric input and a second bio-metric input from said first and second users respectively; and

15 modifying the group user state in response to another input by said first user or second user.

46. The method of Claim 45, wherein the bio-metric input component is a fingerprint pad.

20 47. The method of Claim 45, wherein the controller is a hand-held controller.

48. The method of Claim 47, wherein the controller comprises a display area, and further comprising the step of displaying on the display area data
25 representing available functions to be executed.

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59. (New) The method of Claim 45 wherein another input is a physical button press, a touch screen interaction, or an identification of a current user, said current user being the first user or the second user.

5 60. (New) The method of Claim 45 wherein modifying the group user state by the first user includes transferring information between the group user state and a first user state, the first user state being established in response to the first bio-metric input.

10 61. (New) A method of controlling multi-user access to functionality of consumer devices comprising:

logging on to a controller by a first user using bio-metric data; and

20 61. (New) A method of controlling multi-user access to functionality of consumer devices comprising:
incorporating an algorithm into the controller for determining an occurrence of a time-out, the occurrence of the time-out depending on a factor including a class, a log-in time, a category of use, or a subject matter of user of the first user, wherein at the occurrence of the time-out, the controller is entered into a default state, a power-down, or switched to a second user state.

20 62. (New) The method of Claim 61 wherein the default state prevents a guest user access to one of a pay-per-view programming, a channel, or a function.

25 63. (New) The method of Claim 45 wherein the first user modifies a first user state, the first user state being established using bio-metric input of the first user.

64. (New) The method of Claim 24 wherein the limit access includes preventing access to a certain channel, preventing access to pay-per-view-

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programming, preventing access to use of function associated with conducting e-commerce, or preventing access to use of pre-authorized credit information.

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5 65. (New) The method of Claim 1 further comprising locking access to functionality of the system state after a time-out process.

66. (New) The method of Claim 1 further comprising manually logging-off access functionality of the system state.